

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, before the first line, please insert the following heading: -- Field of the Invention --;

Page 1, after line 4, please insert the following heading: -- Background of the Invention --;

Page 1, lines 14-32, please insert the following paragraphs as amended:

If a single fan blade of the blade arrangement becomes detached from the disc, this produces a very large forward axial force on the adjacent blade. Large forward axial forces are also imposed on the other remaining blades because the loss of a single blade results in the distortion or ovality of the fan case. The more the casing distorts, the heavier the contact between the casing inner surface and the remaining blade tips, leading to increased forward force on each remaining blade as it rotates past the distortions in the casing. There is consequently a requirement to restrain ~~[[to]]~~ the remaining blades in the axial direction, to prevent further blade loss.

Conventionally, axial restraint has been provided by a thrust ring. This consists of a generally annular member which is attached to the disc and which includes an abutment portion located axially ~~[[forwards]]~~ forward of the blades. When an axially forward force is exerted on a blade, the blade abuts against the thrust ring and is retained in place on the disc.

Page 2, after line 3, please insert the following heading: -- Summary of the Invention --;

Page 4, after line 12, please insert the following heading: -- Brief Description of the Drawings --;

Page 4, after line 34, please insert the following heading: -- Detailed Description of the Invention --;

Page 7, lines 7-17, please insert the following paragraphs as amended:

The thrust ring 42 further includes an arm portion 46 and which is generally frustoconical in shape (and therefore straight and sloping in section as illustrated in Fig. ~~[[2]]~~ 4). The arm portion 58 in this embodiment slopes at an angle of about 55° to the axial direction.

At its axially forward and radially inner end, the arm portion 58 includes an undercut shoulder 59, which is generally L-shaped in section, and of complementary shape to a right angled radially outer corner 61 of the attachment portion ~~[[61]]~~ 50.

Page 9, line 33 to Page 10 line 13, please insert the following paragraphs as amended:

Referring to Fig. 6, there is illustrated an alternative embodiment of the invention, in which corresponding reference numerals are again used. The thrust ring 42 of Fig. 6 is generally similar to that of Fig. 4 except that the restraint member 60 is replaced by a plurality of restraint means in the form of restraint fingers 68. The fingers ~~[[18]]~~ 68 are elongate and extend axially backwards from the remainder of the thrust ring 42. A restraint finger 68 is located between the disc 32 and a restraining base part 69 of each individual fan blade 30 and functions in a similar manner to the restraint member 60 of the previous embodiments.

Fig. 7 (which shows just part of the retention member 42) illustrates a variation of the Fig. 6 embodiment. The restraint fingers ~~[[68]]~~ 68' are smaller than restraint fingers 68 and fit between a chuck 70 and the blade 30. Dowels 72 are provided to prevent relative axial movement of the blade 30 and the chuck 70.